

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 are subject to a restriction requirement by the Examiner. Claims 8-10 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Reply to the Restriction of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 121

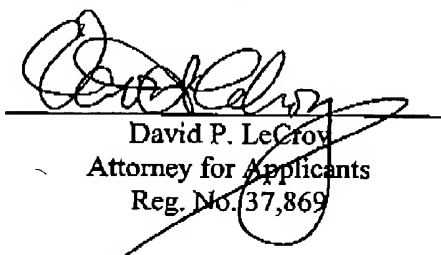
The Examiner has restricted Claims 1-10 to one of the following inventions –

- I. Claims 1-7, drawn to a thickener composition, classified in class 524, subclass 797.
- II. Claim 8 and 9, drawn to a coating composition, classified in class 106, subclass 5.
- III. Claim 10, drawn to a method of thickening a composition, classified in class 524, subclass 800+.

Applicants elect without traverse the invention of Group I.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 29 June 2004
NATIONAL STARCH AND CHEMICAL
COMPANY
Post Office Box 6500
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0500
Phone 908.683.5433
Fax 908.707.3706


David P. LeCroy
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 37,869